

Ward 6 Staff



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Ward 6 - Newsletter

Tucson First

March 10, 2014

Tucson Greyhound Park

Last Friday night, in the 14th race out at TGP a dog was run into the inner rail and electrocuted. The dog died. It's the second time in the last month that that has happened, but the first incident happened during a training race (called "schooling") and so there was no public record or video of it. Friday's incident was captured live in their nation-wide simulcast so there's no denying it happened. The dog's owner and track CEO have gone on record admitting it.

Here's how KOLD covered it:

Race dog accidentally electrocuted at Tucson Greyhound Park

Tucson News Now...here is the link:

<http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/24924260/race-dog-gets-electrocuted-at-tucson-greyhound-park>

“As soon as that dog hit the rail, it was fried. It was dead,” said Tucson City Council Member Steve Kozachik, who heard about the dog's death from those who were at Friday's race.”



A little history by way of reminder – the track was enabling dogs to be trucked into the City of Tucson and being injected with steroids – until we passed an ordinance that prohibited it. Bill Walsh from the Arizona Dept. of Racing later told the City of South Tucson that they were pre-empted by the State from banning steroid injections so now it's again legal in that City, and therefore at the track. The dog that died Friday

was a 4 year old female – likely getting injections so she wouldn't go into heat. They've gotta keep them running so they can fill full race cards. Priorities, you know.

The State Department of Racing is largely funded by the racing industry, no longer the State General Fund. So the regulatory agent is paid by the industry they're regulating. No conflict there.

The Friday death occurred because the inner rail you see in the photo is electrified. There's a piece of equipment called the "lure". It is powered by electricity and is



**Important
Phone Numbers**

- Tucson Police Department
911 or 791-4444
nonemergency
- Mayor & Council
Comment Line
791-4700
- Neighborhood
Resources
791-4605
- Park Wise
791-5071
- Water Issues
791-3242
- Pima County Animal
Control
243-5900
- Street Maintenance
791-3154
- Planning and
Development
Services 791-5550
- Southwest Gas
889-1888
- Gas Emergency/
Gas Leaks
889-1888
- West Nile Virus
Hotline
243-7999
- Environment
Service
791-3171
- Graffiti Removal
792-2489
- AZ Game & Fish
628-5376

Continued: A Message From Steve

what leads the dogs around the track. Being tied into the inside rail, it makes the rail also “hot”. When the dogs rounded the first turn last Friday, the #6 dog bumped the #4 dog into the rail. She had no chance of surviving. When she hit the rail she was running 35-40 mph.



I shared this story with the media. Why? Because its way past time that the ADOR shut down that track. No more covering for the group upon whom you’re reliant for your paycheck – do the ethical thing and lock the gates. We’ll see what Mr. Walsh has to say now.

If the track were to be shut down would it pose a financial hardship on the track owners? Not likely. They live in Florida and here are a couple of images of their house:



Credit to Taylor & Taylor Architects and Interiors, The Robb Report from September 2002 for the images of the interior of the Consolo home.

A person has the right to make a living, but not at the expense of the ethical treatment of the dogs running on the South Tucson track.

To be sure though, the track owners are dog lovers. Here’s an excerpt from a news article that ran describing how they take care of their own dog:



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John
McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff
Flake (R)
520-575-8633

Congressman
Ron Barber (D)
(2nd District)
520-881-3588

Congressman
Raul Grijalva (D)
(3rd District)
520-622-6788

Governor Janice
Brewer (R)
Governor of Arizona
602-542-4331

Toll free:
1-800-253-0883

State Legislators

Toll Free
Telephone:
1-800-352-8404

Internet:
www.azleg.gov

Mayor Jonathan
Rothschild
791-4201

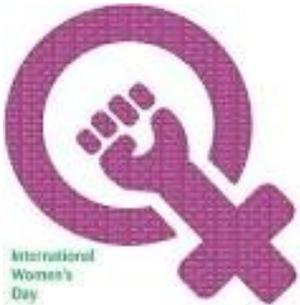
City Infoguide
[http://
cms3.tucsonaz.gov/
infoguide](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/infoguide)

(Columbia) May 16, 2005 - With everything from lotions to nail "pawlish," there's now a booming canine and kitty cosmetic industry. Fredi Consolo says her precious pooch Chloe is more than man's best friend, "I totally feel like she's part of my family." That's why she gets pampered from head to tail, Chloe even has her own perfume.

I'm happy for Chloe, but at any given time there are multiple dogs injured out at TGP. It's known in the industry as a "kill track" because it's where dogs go at the end of their career. Literally.

To the editor of Inside Tucson Business who called me a "zealot" for having advocated hard for our puppy mill ordinance, I'd suggest zealotry in support of ethics is probably not a bad thing. He might want to follow up with a story in which he does his homework – both with mills, and now with TGP. It'd be interesting to see if his passion for preserving jobs persists, even at the cost of killing and injuring animals. He was fine with it in the mills. How about the Track?

International Women's Day



International
Women's
Day

On Thursday of last week I was honored to be included in the 103rd anniversary of the International Women's Day celebration sponsored by Linda Hatfield and her group the CWA Local 7000. This was their 4th annual recognition event and this year they chose the *Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation* as the recipient of the proceeds.

Many of you know my story – raised by a single mom who had the guts to jump ship from the cold in Michigan and begin a fresh new life out here in Arizona. It's in my DNA to appreciate women who step into the fray.

On Thursday evening there were eight honorees. They included Kimberly Duchene, Roberta Sanchez, Serenna Hogan, Anne Jackson, Marylene Minter Carr, Bobbi Wherry, Jill Anderson and Vikki Marshall. Each of them was recognized for stepping up and working in support of worker's and human needs in a wide variety of fields. Kimberly and Anne are City of Tucson workers in General Services and the Police Dispatch Center. It was my distinct pleasure to be a part of an event in which their service to the community was the focus of the night.

The *Glaser Foundation* was established by Elizabeth Glaser who, after having contracted HIV following a blood transfusion while giving birth to their daughter, later learned that others in her family had also contracted the virus. Following the loss of her daughter to the disease, Elizabeth started the Foundation and is now a worldwide leader in the fight to eliminate pediatric AIDS. I've done some work in Africa with HIV/AIDS and vulnerable children, so I totally appreciate the CWA's selection of *Glaser Foundation* as their recipient.

Great combination – recognizing women who have fought for the rights of our front line workers, and more broadly out into the community, and giving back to the fight against pediatric AIDS. Thanks go out to Linda and her group for putting together the event.

Davis-Monthan

That's a picture of an unmanned aircraft. We currently have a mission for them out at DM. It's called the 214th.



Last fall I began writing on the need to advocate for retention of the A-10 fleet out at DM. That was in light of the fact that the DOD had awarded Luke AFB the F-35, saying that it was better suited for that mission than Tucson was. That's still the case.

Shortly after I wrote and spoke in support of the A-10, several from our own congressional delegation, as well as local DM support groups came out and did the same. The Realtors pulled their endorsement of me as a candidate evidently because I accepted the DOD decision with respect to Luke.

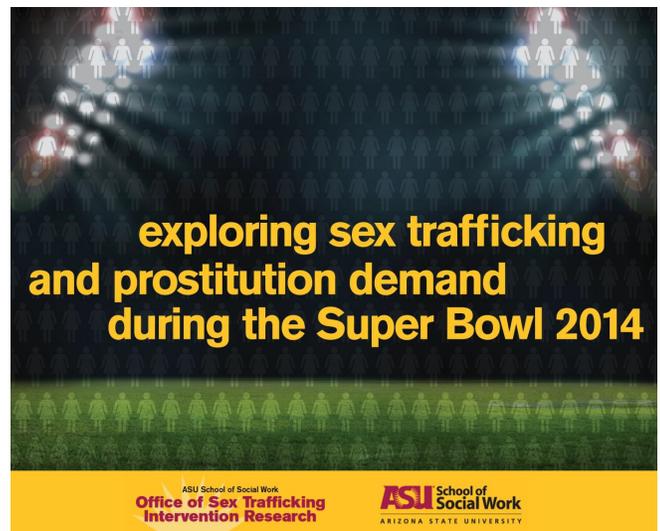
Now you've seen that the A-10 might be on the chopping block. Just as I raised fiscal concerns over the F-35 (as has everybody involved in the development and procurement of that plane), I understand the fiscal issues that surround retention of the A-10. If they'd dump sequestration and make priority driven budget cut decisions, we wouldn't be having this exchange. But they haven't, so we are.

The mission the DOD is describing as the one for the future is unmanned aircraft. How about we encourage our congressional delegation, the DM50 and everybody in the community who wants to see DM survive, and do so with a long term mission that's compatible with a base located in an urban environment, to get in the ear of the decision makers to immediately expand the 214th. We seem to keep fighting decisions that have already been made. Maybe getting ahead of one that is yet to be decided, and one that makes sense for Tucson would be a winner for the community.

Project RAISE

By way of reminder, Project RAISE (Responsible Alternatives to Incarceration for the Sexually Exploited) is the work we've engaged at the Ward 6 office, in cooperation with CODAC, the Tucson Women's Commission, Willow Way (a survivors' group), Southern Arizona Against Slavery, as well as TPD and the City Court people. The goal of the work is to offer diversion to victims of prostitution/trafficking and help them turn their lives around. We've conducted two of the RAISE operations and have just met with our partners to talk about doing a third. Our Savior's Lutheran Church is on board again as our intake center.

So why am I including the ASU logo in this very UA-centric newsletter? Because when we began Project RAISE, we modeled it after a similar effort be-



ing done up in Phoenix. Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz of the ASU Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research was the researcher with whom we met to get our program started. Dominique's office has now teamed up with the McCain Institute for International Leadership on a study of the way the Super Bowl impacts trafficking in the geographic area around the sporting event. The Institute studied last year's Super Bowl as their data source. It's relevant because next year Glendale is scheduled to host that game again.

The study validated the suspicion that traffickers exploit an increased concentration of people in a relatively limited geographic area who have gathered in a recreational atmosphere and who have an increased level of discretionary income. As we've seen in our RAISE experience, the new way people are trafficked/prostituted is over the Internet. The Study demonstrated that the sheer volume of thousands of on-line ads offering commercial sex will far exceed the capacity of any one law enforcement agency to respond in a way that discourages the traffickers from coming to their jurisdiction. It's a numbers game, and the traffickers win.

The Study also showed that juvenile sex trafficking is rampant. In the study done by the McCain Institute, researchers found 38 distinct websites advertising victims who showed indications of being juveniles. They found that the trafficking involved elements of gang and drug traffickers, and that surrounding jurisdictions also serve as conduits for the victims.

So what's the point of my sharing this? Simply that if the NFL decides to go through with the 2015 Super Bowl in Glendale, we may see some impact here in the form of girls being funneled through our area in the days ahead of that event. The Study also verified that the vast majority of the victims are not participating as a career choice. There's compulsion and violence involved. It's dangerous stuff and the ease with which weapons are purchased doesn't make the cops' work any easier.

We at the Ward 6 office are grateful for the support we've had from the agencies who work on RAISE with us. It's an area in which the potential for saving and changing lives exists. We may not have Super Bowl numbers, but each time we've done the operation we've had the chance to touch a dozen or more lives and give the ladies a chance to feel some level of dignity for maybe the first time in forever. All the Super Bowl Study showed is that the hunger for commercial sex is not going away any time soon. We'll keep partnering here locally and doing our small part to combat the exploitation.

Guns

Matthew 26:52

"Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword."

Some of the gun guys have criticized me for referring to their fascination with guns and avoidance of new gun control measures as "religion." Now that criticism will no longer have any validity.

In the last two weeks, two kids in the region have been shot. Both were self-inflicted

wounds. Our State legislature killed a bill that was being sponsored by Representative Victoria Steele that would have held the parents of those kids criminally liable. But Arizona doesn't have a monopoly on stupid when it comes to gun related issues.

Check this out. In an effort its spokesman has described as “**Outreach to Rednecks,**” the Kentucky Baptist Convention is leading “**Second Amendment Celebrations.**” That's where churches around the State are using guns as door prizes in an effort to lure in new church members. They've had as many as 1,000 people line up in an effort to win one of the 25 handguns, long guns, and shotguns. What a wonderful way to teach the un-churched the Christian ethics of forgiveness, loving your enemies, and shining like a light in the world. They had about 50 of those events throughout Kentucky last year.



Back home in Arizona, our local Republican Party raffled off a couple of guns last year as a candidate fund raiser. One of their guys was also promoting giving shotguns away in our neighborhoods. Add to that our State legislature is moving ahead with a Bill that would allow guns in public buildings and on school campuses. In another Bill, they cut proposed funding for mental health first aid training in half. And Arizona remains a hold-out when it comes to joining the National Violent Death Reporting System. That's a database being constructed for the purpose of studying how to get our arms around arms-related killings. The objections all relate back to the idea that nobody should know who has a gun. Here's the copy of an op/ed I submitted to the Star on the NVDRS:

In the United States there are approximately as many firearms as we have inhabitants. A study conducted by the Journal of the American Medical Association late last year reported that between 2007 and 2010 there were over 121,000 firearm fatalities in the U.S., including over 73,000 firearm suicides and over 47,000 firearm homicides. Mortality rates resulting from most major causes of injury are decreasing. That is not true in the case of annual firearm fatalities.

Eighteen States have voluntarily joined the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS.) That is a data base that is being gathered to allow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide decision makers with data to help address mortality rates associated with gun violence. The CDC uses a public health approach to studying the data. It's about prevention and pragmatism, not dogma.

A public health approach uses a four-step model for analyzing data. Those steps include defining the problem, identifying risk and protective factors, developing and testing prevention strategies, and finally, ensuring widespread adoption of effective programs. The focus is on prevention, as far upstream from the problem as is possible from a public policy standpoint.

By way of example, a public health approach was used to address motor vehicle deaths. The analysis was not framed around 'who' caused the death, but on 'what factors' led to

the deaths. Following data analysis we now see a variety of public policy changes that together have impacted the issue. Manufacturer's now produce cars with collapsible steering columns, unlawful behavior is controlled by use of speed bumps, Botts' Dots appear along the side of highways to alert tired drivers when they veer off of the roadway. Through this multi-faceted approach, the industry, the public sector and individual drivers mutually participated in affecting the problem.

The same can be done through application of the public health model to gun related deaths. The NVDRS is gaining momentum and is providing valuable suggestions through the results of study that has already occurred. Those include asking manufacturers to do more to child-proof weapons, producing guns with unique serial numbers that cannot be removed, producing guns that don't discharge when dropped, background checks, licensing and more. From a social norm perspective, the studies suggest advocating for safe storage of guns (witness two child shootings in Pima County in the last 30 days,) and promoting awareness of the dangers of drinking while operating a weapon (Genna's law.)

The same JAMA report cited above revealed that a higher number of firearm laws in a State is associated with a lower rate of firearm fatalities in that State. Sadly the knee-jerk reaction of the NRA and other gun lobbyists is to reject data collection which can lead to a public policy approach to the issue. Tragically more than 30,000 people continue to die annually in the United States from injuries caused by firearms.

Not surprisingly, Arizona remains a hold-out from joining the NVDRS. The value of the data only increases as more States come on board and participate in the System. Each Legislative term we see proposed gun laws coming from Phoenix. Some promote guns in more public places, some promote greater restrictions. All of them lack the public health model analysis that can be provided through our participation in the NVDRS. It's well past time that legislators stop shooting from the hip with their legislation and join in a data collection process that will yield the multi-faceted approach we saw successfully implemented in the area of auto related deaths. The State Legislature should immediately show leadership on this issue and direct the Arizona Department of Health Services to join the National Violent Death Reporting System so future proposed legislation can be based on the results of serious data analysis, not gut driven dogma.

Kudos to Facebook who last week agreed to delete posts from users who were seeking to buy or sell weapons illegally or without a background check. Google Plus and Craigslist already prohibit all gun sales, legal or illegal. Access is of course the key.

Does more gun legislation make a difference in mortality rates? Data put together by the Journal of the American Medical Association say "yes." They studied laws in all 50 States and ranked them according to various gun control metrics. They found that there is a correlation between the "Legislative Strength Score" and firearm fatalities. Massachusetts has a strength score of 22.5 and a fatality rate of 3.4. New Jersey's numbers are 22 and 4.9. Arizona has a "Legislative Strength Score" of 1.5 and a firearm fatality rate of 13.6. Yes, there are a couple of States below us in the rankings. Kentucky is one of them. But hey, the Outreach to Rednecks church work is there, making a real statement. The data show that laws make a difference.

SB1070

Speaking of laws making a difference, the University of Illinois at Chicago recently did a study on the impact SB1070 was having on TPD's ability to productively interact with the Latino community. As you may recall, when 1070 was first proposed, major law enforcement agencies – including the Tucson Police Department – voiced concerns that it would hamper our ability to build relationships in the form of protecting victims and gathering information on crimes that have been committed. The surveys demonstrated that those concerns were accurate.

The study found that 44% of Latinos are less likely to report a crime now that TPD is involved with status checks. When just surveying undocumented immigrants, that number jumps to 70%. That's a reluctance to report a crime – which means criminals are the beneficiaries of 1070.

So other than the community at-large, who are the new victims? The study showed that fully 3 in 10 U.S. born Latinos are now less likely to call police if they are victimized. This is as a result of the possibility of being questioned about the status of family or friends. The impact of the law was as predicted by our law enforcement professionals. I shared with you last time that the State is moving a Bill through that would hold guys in my position civilly liable for proposing and adopting gun related laws that were later found to be pre-empted by State law. Instead, we're near the bottom in the JAMA study on strength of gun laws, near the top in firearm fatalities, might be coming up on an event that will bring gang-related trafficking into the State and we still have SB1070 in place that makes victims less likely to report a crime. That makes for a thrilling half-time show next year in Glendale.

Oh, and by the way. Our own Southern Arizona State Legislator David Gowan has pushed through a Bill that will give you the opportunity (obligation) to pay for extra security in Glendale next year if the NFL shows up with their game. He feels we'll all benefit, so why not help with our checkbooks?

The Legislature killed the Film Incentive Bill last week but insist that we pay for security 120 miles north of here during the Super Bowl.

Film Bill

And speaking of the film bill, yes, the Legislature decided that they aren't interested in attracting jobs in the film industry into our State. Instead they are pushing a Bill through that will exempt manufacturers and smelters (a nice clean industry) from paying State sales taxes on electricity they buy. It'll cost the State \$10M annually in lost income. By way of comparison, that's the same amount that a given film would have been able to receive as incentives.

Cities wanted no part of the electricity exemption bill. It would have cost us about \$9M. Also, the State is picking its own winners. They've decided that to be considered as a manufacturer, you can't be a restaurant, fabrication, or printing company. It should be known that the same people who are carving winners and losers into the exemption Bill are the same ones who object to what they're calling a "targeted tax credit" for the media industry. Just a little hypocrisy going on. The Legislature carved out a bill to help Intel in

Chandler, are pushing a special tax exemption through for Grand Canyon University in Mesa and are looking to give a 15% tax cut to insurance companies (at a cost to the State of \$17M).

We'll just keep pushing what we can on the local and County levels to get films into our region. We'll be successful, but could be much more so with some movement from Phoenix.

Gootter Foundation / TPD

Speaking of giveaways, here's one that'll save lives. On Monday I was very honored to stand alongside members of the Steven M. Gootter Foundation as they presented TPD with 50 AED's (Automated External Defibrillators). They'll go into our police patrol cars so our officers can administer life-saving treatment in cases where they're the first responders, ahead of paramedics. What happens in the first few minutes is critical to saving a life. We at the Ward 6 office join TPD in expressing our deep thanks to the Gootter folks for their very generous investment into our community.

The value of the AEDs is in the \$100K range. The more of these devices that we can get out into our community, the more lives will be saved. You can never know when you'll need one – either as a victim or as a civilian first responder. To that end, Michael Keith (CEO of the Downtown Tucson Partnership) and I are in the process of reaching out to businesses in the downtown core and working to get some into scattered stores in the area. A project such as this was done in Highland Park, Illinois and they now have an AED in nearly every store in their downtown. As was done in that project, we'll be looking for grant funding, but it's the local business anchors who are going to be the drivers of the roll-out of the initiative. Thanks to the Gootters – this isn't their first outreach like this in Tucson. They've also already donated AEDs to the Tucson Soccer Academy, Tucson Senior Softball, and Salpointe High School – and others. I'm looking forward to being able to share more as the downtown program develops.

Possible New Downtown Business Opportunity

In addition to the Gootter item Michael Keith and I are working on, there's another possibility we're kicking around. It could be quite a community service and free up ladies like my bride to go and do their part to increase the sales tax revenue the City needs so badly. This photo pretty much explains the concept.



We have some empty store-fronts downtown. We have the empty Thrifty Block. Lots of potential sites. We'll just have to see if some entrepreneurial sole steps up and takes advantage of this.

...some pet updates from around the region, and Country.



Okay, Ralph let me 'splain it you again. You're big, I'm little; BUT!!! you're dog, I'm cat that makes me the boss. Got it ??

Do you remember Rhonda Bodfield – used to write “Notebook” for the Star? Well now she’s in her element working the Pima Animal Care Center beat for Pima County. Last week she had the opportunity to announce the ribbon cutting at the new PACC ‘pup tent’ facility. That’s the \$400K tent that they’ve opened as a way to help ease the overcrowding in the shelter. The morning of the opening they had 520 dogs crammed into 200 kennels. The pup tent will add 96 kennels to the mix out there. Board of Supervisor Chair Sharon Bronson was on hand for the opening and shared that this is clearly just a temporary solu-

tion. As I reported last week, the new PACC facility will be a Bond project that’ll appear on this year’s November ballot. When they did the surveys asking what the most popular proposed Bond items were, the new PACC facility won, hands-down.

The Center takes in dogs and cats for free (same as what would be required by our new Puppy Mill Ordinance). Last year they took in over 24,000 pets. Right now, in addition to the dogs listed above, they’ve got 244 cats in 120 cages.

Of course, the real long term solution is spay/neuter. We’ll see if M&C wants to rethink their rejection of putting more money into the program now being run so successfully by Pima County. But with or without that step, the new pup tent is a needed and welcomed addition to the PACC site.

In 2013, PACC took in over 24,000 animals and the Humane Society took in over 8,000. Between the two agencies nearly 8,000 were euthanized. The law requires all animals leaving a shelter to have been spayed or neutered. That’s not the case with a pet store. Our Ordinance, like those from other cities, is a step in the right direction of making a dent in the animal overpopulation problem.

Chicago Pet Ordinance

And the day we took our vote on the Puppy Mill Ordinance, the City of Chicago approved one of their own. Theirs is more restrictive than our Ordinance is, but even so it won by a 49-1 tally. Here’s a quote from their City Clerk – who actually introduced the Ordinance back there:

“It cuts off a pipeline of the animals coming from the horrendous puppy mill industry and instead moves us towards a retail pet sales model that focuses on adopting out the many, many homeless animals in need of loving homes in this city. Under this ordinance, the re-

tail pet stores in Chicago will no longer be able to sell dogs, cats or rabbits unless those animals are sourced from humane sources, such as animal shelters or animal rescue associations."

The lone dissenter in Chicago (we had one, too) was only against the measure because he felt adopting it would move the problem out to their suburbs. To that end, I've already reached out to the various animal welfare groups who supported what we just did and we'll be contacting cities around Tucson to let them know what we just passed, and ask that they join in the effort. Of course, we cannot compel them to act, but it's important that we advocate in that direction. As I said during our discussion on the Ordinance, just because you cannot fix an entire problem doesn't mean you don't take the steps that you can. We did. Now so does Chicago – and Albuquerque, L.A., San Diego, and 40 other cities around the Country.

City Budget Excess Capacity

I touched on this last week, but want to give a more clear picture of what has me concerned this time. You can call it either the Government "use it or lose it" approach to budgeting, or simply putting more into a budget than is really needed – excess capacity.

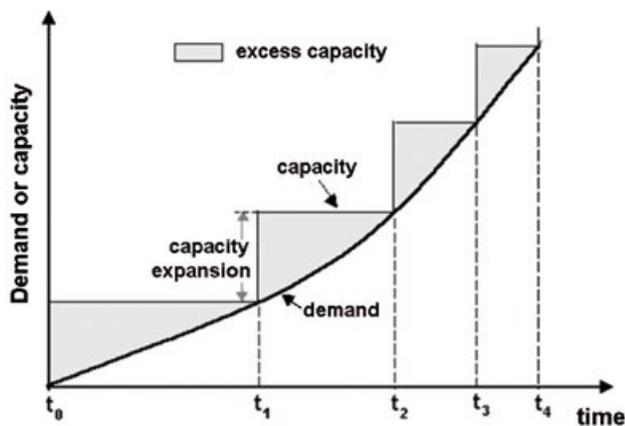


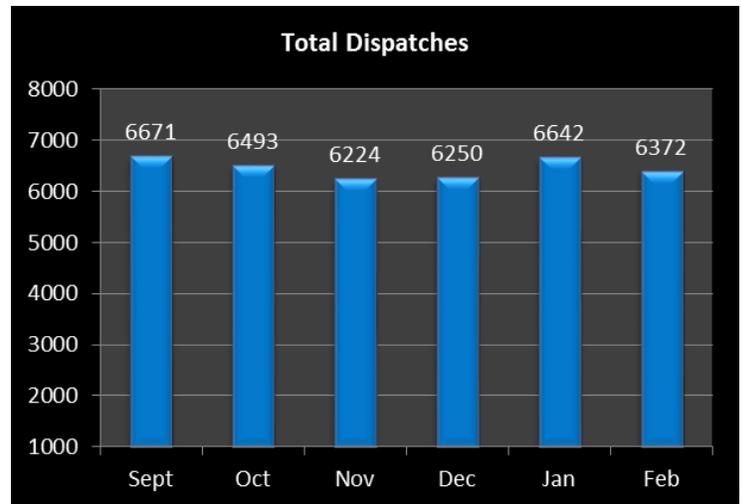
Figure 1 – The classical capacity expansion process (Manne, 1961).

We've all heard the stories of government departments who come up on the end of a fiscal year and feel they need to spend down their budgets or they'll be reduced in budget capacity the following year. You've got to show your boss that you really needed the dough or it won't appear in your budget next time around. Well, we have been putting more capacity into several of our department budgets than what is actually needed to operate effectively. See the next page for a table I compiled that makes the case.

Dept	Fy'13 Actuals - Services	Fy'14 Budget - Services	Unspent Capacity Misc. Pro. Services	Unspent Capacity Travel	Unspent Capacity Training	Unspent Capacity Memberships
Budget/Internal Audit Dept.	\$71K	\$75K	\$0	\$1,300	\$1,500	\$1,400
Attorney	\$634K	\$707K	\$47K	\$6K	\$9K	\$45K
Court	\$1.6M	\$1.7M	\$380K	\$35K	\$800	\$0
City Manager	\$4.2M	\$4.7M	(\$10K)	\$5,900	\$1,500	\$8K
E.S.	\$21.5M	\$25M	\$2.8M	\$23K	\$300	\$0
Finance	\$3M	\$3.3M	\$90K	\$25K	\$3K	\$12K
H.R.	\$390K	\$527K	\$5K	\$4,500	\$140K	\$1,200
RM Internal	\$3.6M	\$6.9M	\$315K	\$4K	\$8,500	\$4,500
Parkwise	\$1.5M	\$1.6M	\$153K	\$2,200		\$600
Mass Transit	\$25M	\$28M	\$700K	\$2K	\$40K	\$2,700
Golf	\$2.9M	\$3.3M	\$36K		\$2,500	\$3K
TSRS	\$4.1M	\$4.4M	\$4.2M (plus a credit of \$792K)	\$3K	\$14K	\$1,500

That unspent capacity was as of the first of this year. I didn't want to inundate you with data, but that gives a pretty good picture of how in several cases we've added to department budgets above what they actually spent in the prior year – these are non-personnel related expenditures so there can be no argument that the increase is as a result of things like the pay raises, pension or benefits increases.

I'll be the first to concede that in some cases above, the numbers are hiding some commitments or opportunities we have to leverage dollars against grant money. But the general case is undeniable; that is, we have room to trim many of our departmental budgets without necessarily hurting service delivery. We won't get to the whole \$33M deficit number, but we can do what Staff recom-



mended last year – budget more conservatively and not build in capacity beyond what we really believe we’ll need. What we have to do is to allocate the dollars to our core responsibilities because we know they’ve got unmet needs. Here’s just an example – the chart below shows the number of dispatches our Fire folks respond to on a monthly basis.

When you’re calling them over 6,000 times per month, it’s pretty essential that we have equipment that’s in good repair. Since 2010 we’ve purchased 4 new trucks for fire. That’s not justifiable when we’re building more capacity into peoples’ budgets for things such as memberships, subscriptions and travel.

There are no magic bullets in our budget that’ll fix the structural problem we have. But last April, Staff asked us if we wanted to have them budget more conservatively, or give pay raises. The first part of that question shouldn’t have been an option. They need to adopt a more conservative approach, especially during times when we’re also being told that our revenues are not responding to levels we need in order to meet current spending.

It’d be a mistake to start cutting services before we know our actual revenues. But it’s also a mistake to put a budget in place that we know contains capacity we likely won’t need in many areas and cut services to the public in others. We’ve got over \$10M in our police command structure and are being told that we should eliminate foot and bike patrol units in the downtown core. Reduce that admin by 10% and save the direct contact with the public. We’ve got over \$1M in a public information department. How much could we save if everybody just answered their own phones?

That’s what I’m talking about.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
ward6@tucsonaz.gov

SIGN UP NOW!

FIRST RESPONDERS RECOGNITION AND RESPONSE AUTISM TRAINING

On a daily basis, police officers, fire fighters and other first responders encounter a multitude of individuals in emergency situations. Just as each emergency differs from the next, so does the individual involved, especially in regards to individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). In response to community concerns, the Tucson Alliance for Autism is offering training for both First Responders and Teens/Young Adults with ASD.

First Responders Training- First responders will learn how to recognize and interact with people with ASD and how to balance their own safety needs with that of the individual with ASD. This training will outline some verbal and nonverbal strategies first responders can use when interacting with a person with ASD and other cognitive delays. In addition, it will provide medical and physical precautions recommended for use during physical stabilization, medical emergency or arrest.

When: Thursday, March 27, 9am - 12 noon

Where: Alice Vail Middle School, 5350 E. 16th St.

Registration Limited

Promoting Safe Interactions with the Police-This training is geared toward teens and young adults with ASD, along with their parents, caregivers and teachers. This training includes viewing scenes from the educational film "BE SAFE", a video modeling tool that teaches safe behaviors when interacting with police, fire and other first responders in a variety of situations.

When: Thursday March 27, 6 - 8:30pm

Where: Alice Vail Middle School, 5350 E. 16th St.

Registration Limited

To register or for more information, please contact the Tucson Alliance for Autism at 520-319-5857.